Promotion of Indian Art and Culture

†294. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the importance of Indian Art and Culture is on the decline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for promotion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Protecting and promoting Indian art and culture is a major task of the Department of Culture. For this purpose, a number of institutions have been set up and schemes formulated. The Akademies take up the promotion of cultural diversity in the areas of literature, performing arts and visual arts. Institutions of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies under the Department as well as special Libraries like Rampur Raza Library and Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library preserve the knowledge and literature of a wide spectrum of our heritage. The seven Zonal Cultural Centres work for the promotion of diverse folk cultures. Besides, many schemes operated by the Department to encourage cultural diversity by supporting creativity and individual efforts for continuing India's rich heritage and traditions.

Promotion of Andaman Islands as a tourist hub

295. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a German tour operator has selected the Andaman Islands as the world's beach;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to encourage and attract tourists groups to make the Islands the tourist hub by offering appropriate concessions and incentives and if so, the details thereof ?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.